



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Mack Bernard

District 84

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

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August 2, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

COMMITTEES

Health & Human Services
Committee

Redistricting Committee

Economic Development &
Tourism Subcommittee
(Democratic Ranking Member)

Civil Justice Subcommittee

House Redistricting
Subcommittee

Insurance & Banking
Subcommittee

Transportation & Economic
Development Appropriations
Subcommittee

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I'm grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed merger, the outcome of which would benefit people in communities across Florida.

Currently, there are many rural, minority, and otherwise underserved communities in Florida that lack high-speed broadband access. Lack of access means that many people do not have a crucial tool that can be used for personal, educational, and professional success. Without reliable, fast Internet service, businesses cannot compete in the global marketplace or take advantage of chances for expansion and growth. Our schoolchildren will be unprepared for the job markets of the future and our local communities will be tragically left in the dark. This has become a critical public policy issue.

The additional capabilities that high-speed wireless broadband delivers spur local economic development, innovation in every industry, and job creation. Small businesses benefit from broadband because access allows them to reach new customers, compete against larger companies, and expand their work forces. Access to reliable broadband also brings opportunities for professional advancement and educational enrichment, which is key to ensuring economic well-being and quality of life.

This merger would expand availability of high-speed wireless broadband to include traditionally underserved areas like minority communities or rural areas of Florida. AT&T is committing to infrastructure improvements and private investments that will quickly bring access to areas that need it the most, and I'm optimistic about the resulting possibilities for Floridians. Thank you for your careful consideration and thoughtful review.

Sincerely,

Representative Mack Bernard

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